

4-24-2015

# Opera Chapman Presents: L'elisir d'amore (The Elixir of Love)

Opera Chapman

Chapman Orchestra

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OPERA CHAPMAN PRESENTS:

# L'elisir d'amore

(The Elixir of Love)

IN COLLABORATION WITH  
THE CHAPMAN ORCHESTRA

by Gaetano Donizetti

*Peter Atherton*, artistic director  
*Carol Neblett and Christian Nova*,  
associate directors  
*Stephen Coker*, conductor

April 24-26, 2015



CHAPMAN  
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF PERFORMING ARTS  
CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

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HALL-MUSCO  
CONSERVATORY OF

music

Spring 2015



# SPRING 2015 calendar highlights

## february

February 5

### **The President's Piano Series**

Eduardo Delgado, *soloist*

February 6

### **William Hall Visiting Professor in Recital**

Jeralyn Glass, *soprano soloist*

February 19-21, 26-28

### ***The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark***

by William Shakespeare

Directed by *Thomas F. Bradac*

February 27

### **Faculty Recital**

Rebecca Sherburn, *soprano*

with Louise Thomas, *piano*

## march

March 5

### **The President's Piano Series**

Dan Tepfer, *soloist*

March 13

### **The Chapman Orchestra: *A Midsummer Night's Dream***

Daniel Alfred Wachs, *Music Director and Conductor*

Angel Vázquez-Ramos, *Music Director*

Michael Nehring, *Director*

## april

April 2

### **The President's Piano Series**

Abbey Simon, *soloist*

April 9-11

### **Concert *Intime***

presented by *Chapman student choreographers*

April 9-11, April 16-18

### ***Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead***

by Tom Stoppard

Directed by *Gavin Cameron-Webb*

April 10

### **University Choir & University Singers in Concert**

Stephen Coker, *Conductor*

April 24-26

### **Opera Chapman presents: *The Elixir of Love***

by Gaetano Donizetti

Peter Atherton, *Artistic Director*

Carol Neblett, *Associate Director*

## may

May 2

### **Chapman University Wind Symphony**

Christopher Nicholas, *Music Director and Conductor*

May 6-9

### **Spring Dance Concert**

presented by *Chapman student choreographers*

May 8

### **University Women's Choir in Concert**

Angel Vázquez-Ramos, *Director*

May 16

### **Sholund Scholarship Concert**

## CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

### *Hall-Musco Conservatory of Music*

*presents the*

## L'elisir d'amore

(The Elixir of Love)

By Gaetano Donizetti

Peter Atherton, *artistic director*

Carol Neblett, *associate director*

Christian Nova, *associate director*

Stephen Coker, *conductor*

April 24-25, 2015 ■ 7:30 P.M.

April 26, 2015 ■ 3:00 P.M.

Chapman Auditorium, Memorial Hall

Cast of Characters

Nemorino.....Duke Kim (4/24, 4/26), Marcus Paige (4/25)

Adina.....Julia Dwyer (4/24, 4/26), Kylena Parks (4/25)

Belcore.....Daniel Emmet (4/24, 4/26), Andrei Bratkovski (4/25)

Dr. Dulcamara.....Elliott Wulff (4/24, 4/26), Kristinn Schram Reed (4/25)

Giannetta.....Kyla McCarrel (4/24, 4/26), Alexandra Rupp (4/25)

Justice of the Peace.....Anthony Chau

Ensemble

Spencer Boyd, Natasha Bratkovski, Sarah Brown, Dongwhi Baek, Anthony Chau, Yllary Cajahuaringa, Madilyn Crossland, Claudia Doucette, Hannah Fan, Sarah Fantappie, Benjamin Finer, Daniel Goldberg, Jeffrey Goldberg, Matthew Grifka, Shaina Hammer, Megan Henretta, Angelique Hernandez, Fallon Holtz, Tyler Johnson, Johann Josen, Hannah Kidwell, Anzhela Kushnirenko, Jeremiah Lussier, Allison Marquez, Shana Marshall, Shannon McBane, Brennan Meier, William Meinert, Melissa Montañó, Mark Peng, Emma Plotnik, Caleb Price, Tanja Radić, Katie Rock, Erin Theodorakis

Program

*The action takes place in Las Vegas, Nevada at the "Orange Nugget Casino" and a local wedding chapel in 1958*

ACT 1

Nemorino, a simple young man, is in love with Adina, a beautiful starlet, who torments him with her indifference. When Nemorino hears Adina reading to the staff and patrons the story of *Tristan and Isolde*, he is convinced that a magic potion will help him win Adina's love. The handsome and hip-gyrating Sergeant Belcore arrives with a few of his soldier friends and immediately sets out flirting with Adina in front of everyone. Nemorino becomes anxious and, when alone with Adina, declares his love for her. Adina rebuffs him, saying she prefers a different lover every day. Nemorino declares that his feelings for her will never change. The slick salesman, Dr. Dulcamara arrives selling his bottled cure-all to the crowd. Nemorino innocently asks Dulcamara if he has any of Isolde's secret love-potion. Despite failing to recognize the name 'Isolde' Dulcamara's commercial talents nevertheless enable him to sell a bottle of the cure-all, in reality only cheap bourbon, to Nemorino.

To make his escape, Dulcamara tells Nemorino the potion will not take effect for 24 hours — by which time, the doctor will be long gone. Nemorino drinks some, believing that he can feel its effects immediately. Encouraged by the elixir, Nemorino feigns indifference at his next encounter with Adina. She becomes increasingly annoyed; perhaps she has feelings for Nemorino after all? Belcore returns and proposes marriage to Adina. Still irritated by Nemorino, Adina promises to marry Belcore in six days' time. Nemorino's confidence is sustained in the belief that the elixir will facilitate his conquest of Adina the following day. However, when Belcore learns that he and his comrades must leave the next morning, Adina promises to marry him that evening. This throws Nemorino into a panic, who cries out for Dr. Dulcamara to come to his aid. Adina, meanwhile, invites everyone to the wedding celebration.

ACT 2

Adina and Belcore's wedding party is in full swing at a local wedding chapel. Dr. Dulcamara encourages Adina to sing a duet with him to entertain the guests. The justice of the peace arrives to make the marriage official. Adina is annoyed to see that Nemorino has not appeared. While the couple goes to witness the signing of the wedding documents, Dulcamara stays behind alone, helping himself to food and drink. Having seen the notary, Nemorino appears, depressed, as he believes that he has lost Adina. He sees Dulcamara

Program

and frantically begs him for another bottle of elixir. Although Dulcamara is happy to boast of his generosity, upon discovering that Nemorino has no money he changes his tune and rushes off, refusing to provide him anything. Belcore emerges from the chapel, perplexed by the mystery of women; Adina has suddenly put off signing the documents. He spots Nemorino and asks his rival why he is so depressed. When Nemorino says he needs cash, Belcore suggests he join the army, as he'll receive cash on the spot. Belcore tries to excite Nemorino with tales of military life, while Nemorino dreams of winning Adina. Belcore produces an enlistment documnet, which Nemorino signs in return for the cash. Nemorino vows to rush off and buy more potion, while Belcore muses about how sending Nemorino off to war has easily dispatched his rival.

After the two men leave Giannetta gossips with her colleagues, swearing them to secrecy. She reveals that Nemorino's uncle has just died and left his nephew millions. However, neither Nemorino nor Adina is yet aware of this. Nemorino enters, having spent his military signing bonus on - and consumed - a jumbo size bottle of the “elixir” from Dr. Dulcamara. Hoping to share in his newfound fortune, the women approach Nemorino with overly friendly greetings. Their actions are so out of character that Nemorino takes it as proof of the elixir's effectiveness. Adina sees Nemorino enjoying the attention of the women and is shaken by his newfound popularity. She asks Dr. Dulcamara for an explanation. He explains that Nemorino joined the army for money to get Isolda’s magical elixir; he was so desperate to win the love of some unnamed cruel beauty. Adina immediately recognizes Nemorino's sincerity, regrets her behavior and realizes that she has loved Nemorino all along. Although Dulcamara seizes the opportunity to try and sell her some of his potion to win back Nemorino, Adina declares that she has every confidence in her own powers of attraction.

Nemorino appears alone reflecting on a tear he saw in Adina's eye when he was ignoring her earlier. Solely based on that, he is convinced that Adina loves him. She enters and asks why he has chosen to join the army and leave his home. When Nemorino explains that he was seeking a better life, Adina responds that he is loved and that she has purchased back his contract from Belcore. She offers the cancelled contract to Nemorino and reassures him that, if he stays, he will be happy. Adina, always the tease, turns to leave. Nemorino believes she is abandoning him and flies into a rage, vowing that if she does not love him, he will go off to die as a soldier. Deeply touched by his passion, Adina finally declares that she will love Nemorino forever, which makes Nemorino ecstatic! Adina begs him to forgive her, which he does with a kiss. Belcore returns to see Nemorino and Adina in an embrace. When Adina explains that she loves Nemorino, the Sergeant takes the news in stride, noting that there are plenty of other women in the world waiting for him. Dulcamara returns and boasts of the success of his elixir, encouraging everyone to stock up before his departure. The crowd hails Dulcamara as a great physician and friend.

The Chapman Orchestra

Violin I

Chloe Tardif •  
Kimberly Levin  
Rachelle Schouten ♪  
Arturo Balmaceda  
  
Suzanne Haitz  
William Parker  
Marc Rosenfield

Violin II

Michael Fleming •  
Gabrielle Stetz ♪  
Austin Phillips  
Laura Schildbach ♪  
Alayne Hsieh ♪  
Alicia Correa

Viola

Nickolas Kaynor ♪ •  
Javier Chacon Jr. ♪  
Stephanie Calascione  
Leehyeon Kuen  
Ariel Chien  
  
Christine Anderson  
Priscilla Peraza

Cello

Connor Bogenreif ♪ •  
Christopher DeFazio  
Nathaniel Cook ♪  
Michael Schwarz ♦  
Vijay Reddy  
  
Jordan Perez ♪

Double Bass

Ethan Reed •  
Rafael Zepeda

Flute

Joshua Roberson •  
Sarah Kerns ♦

Oboe

Emilia Lopez-Yañez •  
Olivia Gerns

Clarinet

Sam Ek •  
David Scott

Bassoon

Rebecca Rivera @ •  
Elizabeth Atwater ♦

French Horn

Robert Loustaunau •  
Malinda Yuhás

Trumpet

Matthew LaBelle •  
Chris Traynor

♪ Senior  
• Principal  
♦ Guest  
@ Faculty

Trombone

Nolan Delmer •  
Austin Ayers  
Jordan Gault

Harp

Lauren Arasim ♪ •

Timpani

Paul Burdick •

Percussion

Storm Marquis  
Andrea Stain

Staff

Stephanie Calascione  
*Orchestra Manager*  
  
Alvin Ly  
*Orchestra Librarian*

Robert Loustaunau  
*Operations Manager*

Malinda Yuhás  
*Operations Assistant*

Artistic Staff

Peter Atherton, D.M.A.....	Artistic Director
Carol Neblett.....	Associate Director
Christian Nova, D.M.A.....	Associate Director
Dale A. Merrill.....	Choreographer
Don Guy, Keith Bangs.....	Scenic Designers
Ben Tusher.....	Lighting Design
Katie Wilson.....	Costume Designer
Pat Cavins.....	Costume Shop Manager
Paul Floyd, D.M.A.....	Coach, Chorus Master
Janet Kao, D.M.A.....	Coach
Stephen Coker, D.MA.....	Conductor
Harrison Zierer.....	Production Manager

Costume Crew:

Christine Wille.....	Wardrobe Mistress
Peggy Oquist.....	First Hand
Ruthe Brunner.....	First Hand
Christine Wille.....	Costume Design Assistant
Christa Armendariz and Sarah Fioten.....	Costume Technicians

Stage Crew:

Brian Fujii, Richard Jackson, Joanne Kim, Ali Matossian, James Park, Steven Porfiri,  
Eric Rodriguez, Trevor Well

A Special Thanks to:

Tony Oppedisano, Giancarlo Fantappiè, Al Genovese, Erik Larson,  
Director of Technical Services of Piaggio group of the Americas, &

Newport Italian



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The Creative Team

Peter Atherton – Artistic Director

Bass-baritone Peter Atherton has had the joy of performing over forty-five roles ranging from Seneca in *The Coronation of Poppea* to Frederick in *A Little Night Music*. His operatic credits include performances with the Los Angeles Opera, Seattle Opera, Baltimore Opera, Lyric Opera Cleveland, Wolf Trap Opera, Virginia Opera, San Francisco Opera Touring Division, Opera Atelier, Cairo Opera and the Operafestival of Rome and Verona. He has performed with such conductors as Leonard Bernstein, Pierre Boulez, Lucas Foss, James Conlon, Kurt Herbert Adler, David Effron and Myung-Whun Chung.

Mr. Atherton holds the Robert and Norma Lineberger Endowed Chair in Music and is Director of Operatic Studies and Associate Professor of Voice in the Hall-Musco Conservatory of Music at Chapman University. He served as Co-Artistic Director of Opera festival di Roma for five seasons in Rome, Italy. This summer he will return to teach at the Frost School Salzburg Summer Festival Program in Salzburg, Austria. Mr. Atherton has taught at the University of Southern California, the University of California at Los Angeles, Occidental College and at Operafestival di Roma, and has presented Master Classes throughout North America. His students have been admitted to prestigious graduate and apprentice programs across the country, with many performing professionally in Europe, the United States and Canada.

Carol Neblett – Associate Director

One of America’s greatest and most acclaimed sopranos, Carol Neblett’s career has spanned over forty years, performing opera’s most coveted roles in the world’s greatest opera houses, including the Metropolitan Opera, La Scala, Covent Garden, San Francisco Opera, Salzburg, Hamburg and Chicago Lyric Opera. Ms. Neblett made her operatic debut in 1969 with the New York City Opera as Musetta in *La Boheme*. Amidst huge acclaim, she performed over twenty-five leading roles with the company over the next five years. Critical triumphs included the dual roles of Margherita and Helen of Troy in Boito’s *Mefistofele*. Her performance of Korngold’s *Die Tote Stadt* was so successful that it was subsequently recorded with the renowned Erich Leinsdorf conducting, and won a number of coveted awards, including a Grammy in 1975.

Ms. Neblett’s signature roles include Puccini’s *Tosca* as well as Minnie in *The Girl of the Golden West*. In 1976 she made her debut at the Lyric Opera of Chicago as Tosca with Luciano Pavarotti, and has sung this role more that 200 times. Ms. Neblett was invited to sing Minnie with Placido Domingo for Queen Elizabeth’s 25th Jubilee Celebration at Covent Garden, which was filmed live as well as recorded. Throughout the world’s major opera houses, Ms. Neblett has sung more than eighty-five leading roles and more than 100 oratorio and symphonic works.

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## The Creative Team

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Ms. Neblett is currently on the vocal staff as Artist-in-Residence at Chapman University. She conducts master classes for young artist programs worldwide, concentrating on role preparation for the professional singer, as well as maintaining a private studio in the Los Angeles area.

### Christian Nova - Associate Director

Baritone Christian Nova has sung in a variety of venues and styles to much critical acclaim: from opera to musicals, cabaret to pop, recordings to industrials. He has appeared with the Los Angeles Opera under the direction of Plácido Domingo, Kent Nagano, and Achim Freyer; on Broadway in *Cyrano - The Musical*, conducted by Constantine Kitsopoulos; as “The Phantom” in the U.S. National Tour of *Phantom of the Opera*; in the World Premiere of *The First Picture Show* at the Mark Taper Forum, conducted by Kimberly Grigsby (with Estelle Parsons); in the World Premiere of “Nine Walt Whitman Songs” by Marc Blitzstein at the Sala Vanni in Florence, Italy; in *Philoktetes* at The Getty Villa in Malibu, California (with Henry Goodman); and in Sondheim's *Follies* with the Oakland East Bay Symphony, conducted by Michael Morgan (with Rita Moreno). Other favorite performances include *Closer Than Ever*, *Evita*, *Baby*, *The Student Prince*, *Ken Hill's Phantom*, *A Little Night Music*, *West Side Story*, *Carousel*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Kismet* (with Juliet Prowse), *Strike Up the Band* (with Tom Bosley), and a new studio recording of Gershwin's *Oh, Kay!* (with Dawn Upshaw), among many, many others. He is Associate Professor of Music at Los Angeles Valley College and Adjunct Instructor of Voice at Chapman University. For more information, please visit [www.TheSingingDog.com](http://www.TheSingingDog.com) or [www.lavc.edu/music](http://www.lavc.edu/music).

### Stephen Coker - Conductor

Stephen Coker is Director of Choral Activities and Associate Professor of Music at Chapman University. Prior to this 2009 appointment, Dr. Coker served on the faculties of the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM), Oklahoma City University (OCU), and Portland State University. At both CCM and OCU, Coker was given the “Outstanding Teacher Award,” and in 1995, he received the "Director of Distinction Award" from the Oklahoma Choral Directors Association. In frequent demand as a clinician and guest conductor, Dr. Coker has conducted professional, collegiate, and youth choirs and orchestras in workshops and festivals in Portugal, South Korea, Israel, Sweden, China, and Taiwan as well as in roughly half of the fifty states.

A degree recipient of the University of Southern California and Oklahoma City University, he is an enthusiast of opera and musical theater as well as choral-orchestral performance. Coker has conducted much of the major choral work repertoire including works of Bach, Mozart, Haydn, Brahms, Dvorak, Vaughan Williams, Duruflé, Poulenc, Orff, and Bernstein and has prepared choruses for James Levine, James Conlon, and

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## The Creative Team

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Erich Kunzel. Also, Dr. Coker has conducted over one hundred performances of some thirty-five stage productions ranging from *La Bohème*, *Carmen*, *La Traviata* and *Faust* to operettas of Strauss, Lehár and Gilbert and Sullivan to Broadway standards such as *Guys and Dolls* and Sondheim's *A Little Night Music*.

### Paul Floyd - Coach, Chorus Master

Paul Floyd is currently on the music faculty at both the University of California, Los Angeles and Chapman University. For sixteen years he served as an Assistant Conductor with Los Angeles Opera. During the summers he has held similar positions with The Santa Fe Opera, the Aspen Music Festival, Hawaii Performing Arts Festival, and the Oregon Astoria Festival. He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in piano performance from the University of Colorado, Boulder and degrees from the Eastman School of Music and the University of Southern California where he graduated summa cum laude. In 1991 he was the MTNA national collegiate artist winner in piano. Mr. Floyd has appeared as soloist with the Central Florida Bach Festival, University of Colorado Symphony, the Ventura County Symphony and the Saddleback College Orchestra. His movie credits include an appearance with Julie Andrews and Anna Netrebko in *Princess Diaries II* and a Disney Hall performance with Vivica Genaux in Anthony Hopkins' *Fracture*.

### Janet Kao - Coach

Pianist Janet Kao, a native of Taiwan, is an accomplished musician with extensive experience as a solo pianist, vocal/instrumental collaborator, and an opera coach. She has performed on many stages including Alice Tully Hall in New York City, Harris Concert Hall in Aspen, Preston Bradley Hall in Chicago, and the National Concert Hall of Taiwan. She has been invited to participate in several summer music festivals including Bowdoin Music Festival, the Yellow Barn Chamber Music Festival, and the Music Academy of the West. She has served as a staff accompanist at the Aspen Music Festival, as a staff coach at Opera in the Ozarks, Arkansas and the American Institute of Musical Arts in Graz, Austria. Janet received her Bachelor and Master of Music degree in Piano Performance from the Peabody Conservatory with pianist Robert McDonald, and a Graduate Certificate in Collaborative Piano from the Juilliard School under the tutelage of Jonathan Feldman and Brian Zeger. She completed the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Southern California in Keyboard Collaborative Arts in 2009 under Alan Smith and was awarded the Gwendolyn Koldofsky Scholarship Award for three consecutive years. Dr. Kao is currently an adjunct professor and a vocal coach at Fullerton College and Chapman University.

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## The Creative Team

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### **Don Guy - Scenic Designer**

Don Guy is Director of Production and Assistant Professor of Entertainment Technology for the College of Performing Arts. He has designed numerous shows from Off-Broadway to Tony Award-winning regional theatres. He is currently the resident lighting designer for Masters of Illusion Live! and Saint Louis Ballet. Design credits include: *The Illusionarium* (Norwegian Cruise Lines); *Masters of Illusion Live!* (Singapore, Philippines, South America, and North America); *The Magic of Paris* (Paris Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV); *The International Magic Festival* (Athens, Greece); *Chapter Two* and *Shirley Valentine* (Laguna Playhouse). Previous Designs for Opera Chapman include: *The Merry Widow* and *Così fan tutte*. Upcoming projects include: *Masters of Illusion Live! World Tour 2014-2015* and *Gala de Danza* in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

### **Keith Bangs - Scenic Designer**

Keith is the production manager for the University of California, Irvine where he is a 30 year employee. He has also served on the faculty at Chapman University for the last 8 years. Before that he pursued an extensive career in film and television production. Keith received his M.F.A. in technical design from Yale University.

### **Ben Tusher - Lighting Design**

Ben Tusher is an acclaimed lighting designer whose work for theatre, dance, opera, and themed environments has been seen throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia for the last twenty years. At Chapman University Ben most recently designed the lighting for *A Night of Nob Theatre*. Other designs at Chapman include *Company*, *The Magic Flute*, *Urinetown*, *La Traviata/Die Fledermaus*, *Waiting for Godot*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and nine faculty and student dance concerts. As an enthusiastic and committed proponent of arts education, Ben enjoys teaching and designing at universities throughout Southern California, including the University of California at Riverside where he has held the title of both Visiting Assistant Professor and Artist-in-Residence. Ben is currently the Director of Production and Operations for The Wooden Floor, where he has created lighting and scenic designs for more than two-dozen commissioned dances presented by the organization since 2003, working with noted contemporary choreographers including Mark Haim, Sally Silvers, John Heginbotham, Donald McKayle, and the Merce Cunningham Dance Company.

### **Kathryn Wilson - Costume Design**

Kathryn Wilson is a freelance costume designer working in Orange County for the past 9 years. She has designed for Dance, Opera and Theater across the nation and internationally. Her recent works include projects for Pacific Symphony (*Carmen*, *La Traviata*, and *Rite of Spring*), Shakespeare Orange County (seven consecutive seasons), The New Swan Theater (*Three Seasons*), Prague Shakespeare Festival (2012), South Coast Repertory Theater,

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## The Creative Team

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Chapman University Dance, Theatre and Opera Departments, UC Irvine Dance and Opera Department, The Chance Theater, and the Orange County School of the Arts (2006). Kathryn received the LA Weekly Award for her costume design of *Machiavelli* (2006). She is currently Adjunct Faculty at Chapman University in Costume and Makeup Design.

### **Harrison Zierer - Production Manager**

Harrison Zierer is a graduate of Chapman University where he received a dual bachelor of music in education and vocal performance. He is currently the Artistic Director and Founder of Center Stage Theater, a non-profit children's theater group ([www.center-stage-theater.com](http://www.center-stage-theater.com)). Harrison's work as a director and child educator has been praised by parents and school administration alike. In addition to his involvement with Opera Chapman and Center Stage, Harrison teaches music and theater at The Arbor Learning Community, private voice and piano lessons, as well as freelance directs in the North Orange County area.



## Marybelle and Sebastian P. Musco Center for the Arts

# Focus

on the Arts

The Musco Center for the Arts, opening in Spring 2016, will be a stunning performance venue for students in Chapman University's College of Performing Arts. Designed by renowned architects Pfeiffer Partners, with acoustics tuned by Nagata Acoustics, the Center will welcome world-class performers in music, theatre and dance, and will bring extraordinary learning and performing opportunities to Chapman University students with those same passions. There's never been a better time to focus on Chapman.



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Dear Alumni, Parents and Friends:

One of the most critical skill sets our students will acquire during their time at Chapman is artistic career development to help prepare them for success after graduation. To accomplish this requires a quality and rigor of instruction that is second to none – implemented by faculty members who are not only superb teachers, but successful working artists themselves. And it involves patrons of the arts, like you, who embrace the value the arts bring to our society and the impact the arts have on our communities.

With the construction of the new Musco Center for the Arts, never has a community of music, theatre and dance enthusiasts been more essential to the quality of education and opportunities for our emerging artists here in the College of Performing Arts. Your role as a friend, family member and Fund for Excellence supporter means more to our gifted students than ever before.

We invite you to join our community of loyal alumni, parents and community partners who are devoted to developing the talents of the next generation of artists with a gift to the Fund for Excellence. The Fund for Excellence supports the College of Performing Arts initiatives, ensuring our ability to continue providing educational and performing opportunities necessary for our students to grow into successful artists. Your gift impacts our program by:

- Providing life-changing master classes with world-renowned professionals on campus;
- Ensuring top-notch community productions of classic and contemporary art;
- Strengthening our ability to attract the brightest and most talented students, globally, *through increased scholarships, program enrichment, and performance travel funds.*

Performances like the one you are about to see are a prime example of the type of programming our Fund for Excellence brings to our students and community. We are proud to have presented over 110 productions last year with over 1,200 people in attendance, and I know you have enjoyed and valued the performing arts opportunities we provide. I hope you will take the next step by making a gift to our Fund for Excellence. Please know each one of our students benefits from your decision to support the College. With your gift, you will be a part of a family of individuals who demonstrate, year after year, their commitment to developing the talents of young artists. I hope you join us not only because you value the arts, but because you believe in and want to invest in our next generation of artists.

Enjoy the performance, and I look forward to seeing you again at one of our many performance events throughout the coming year.



Dale A. Merrill  
Dean



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The Theodore Family  
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